

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward Buttrey, on March 27, 2017 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)  
Sen. Dee Brown, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Pat Connell (R)  
Sen. Tom Facey (D)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)  
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Linda Keim, Committee Secretary  
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 353, 3/20/2017; SB 355, 3/20/2017; SB 362, 3/20/2017

Executive Action: Tied: SB 170, SB 356

00:00:01 Chair Buttrey

Vice Chair Brown assumed the position of chair.

00:01:32 Chair Brown

**HEARING ON SB 353**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:39 Sen. Edward Buttrey (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 353. Revise laws concerning ambulance services.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:47 Dan Villa, budget director, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

00:08:28 Jennifer Hensley, PacificSource Health Plans (PSHP)

00:09:11 Frank Cote, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:10:28 John MacDonald, Life Flight Network (LFN)

**EXHIBIT(bus63a01)**

00:14:03 Dick Brown, president, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

00:14:41 Aimee Grmoljez, Billings Clinic

00:16:10 Bill Bryant, consultant, Sierra Health Group; representing Air Ambulance Coalition (AAC)

**EXHIBIT(bus63a02)**

00:19:49 Justin Grohs, ground ambulance provider, Great Falls Emergency Service (GFES); Missoula Emergency Services; American Medical Response, Bozeman

00:22:31 David Webster, ground ambulance service manager, St. Peter's Ambulance Service, Helena

00:24:36 Clint Loss, president, Montana Emergency Medical Services Association

00:25:02 Marilyn Bartlett, administrator, Health Care and Benefits Division, Department of Administration (DOA)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:25:37 Sen. Connell

00:26:34 Mr. Grohs, GFES

00:27:35 Sen. Connell

00:28:12 Mr. Cote, BCBSMT

00:28:38 Sen. Salomon

00:29:08 Ms. Bartlett, DOA

00:31:04 Chair Brown

00:31:16 Ms. Bartlett

00:31:28 Sen. Facey  
 00:32:19 Ms. Bartlett  
 00:32:29 Sen. Facey  
 00:33:14 Mr. Brown, MHA  
 00:33:24 Sen. Facey  
 00:33:38 Mr. MacDonald, LFN  
 00:34:12 Sen. Connell  
 00:36:58 Sen. Buttrey  
 00:38:05 Sen. Salomon  
 00:39:48 Sen. Buttrey redirect  
 00:40:16 Jennifer Hensley, PSHP  
 00:40:52 Sen. Smith  
 00:41:41 Mr. Bryant, AAC  
 00:42:39 Sen. Smith  
 00:43:07 Sen. Buttrey  
 00:43:20 Sen. Facey  
 00:43:50 Mr. Villa, OBPP  
 00:45:29 Sen. Facey  
 00:46:02 Ms. Hensley  
 00:46:57 Chair Brown  
 00:47:50 Mr. Villa

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:48:35 Sen. Buttrey  
 00:50:26 Chair Brown

**HEARING ON SB 362**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:52:08 Sen. Edward Buttrey (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 362. Requiring transparency in health care pricing.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:59:32 Kendall Cotton, policy administrator, Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

**[EXHIBIT\(bus63a03\)](#)**

01:03:10 Dick Brown, president, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)  
 01:05:36 Mike Foster, representing five Catholic Hospitals in Montana (CH)  
 01:06:45 Aimee Grmoljez, Billings Clinic

**[EXHIBIT\(bus63a04\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:08:38 Jennifer Hensley, PacificSource Health Plans (PSHP)

**[EXHIBIT\(bus63a05\)](#)**

01:16:01 John Doran, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)  
01:20:49 David Hemion, executive director, Montana Dental Association  
01:23:05 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Montana  
Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Montana Speech-Language-  
Hearing Association  
01:25:23 Joseph Vincent, physician, vice president, Montana Optometric Association  
01:27:21 Kurt Lindemann, self, dentist, Flathead Valley; Montana Dental Association  
01:31:12 Marti Wangen, Montana Podiatric Medical Association, Montana Psychological  
Association  
01:32:14 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:33:19 Sen. Facey  
01:33:48 Mr. Foster, CH  
01:35:00 Sen. Facey  
01:38:08 Mr. Brown, MHA  
01:40:02 Sen. Facey  
01:40:47 Ms. Hensley, PSHP

**EXHIBIT(bus63a06)**

01:42:56 Sen. Vuckovich  
01:43:01 Mr. Doran, BCBSMT  
01:43:54 Chair Brown  
01:43:58 Sen. Buttrey  
01:44:24 Sen. Facey  
01:46:38 Sen. Buttrey  
01:48:01 Sen. Connell  
01:49:01 Sen. Buttrey

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:49:52 Sen. Buttrey  
01:55:05 Chair Brown  
01:55:06 Recess  
01:59:52 Reconvened  
01:59:53 Sen. Buttrey assumed the position of chair.

**HEARING ON SB 355**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:59:57 Sen. Dee Brown (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 355. Revise distribution  
of lodging tax to convention and visitors bureaus.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:01:45 Teresa Woehler, self, business owner; also representing Destination Glacier and other local businesses near Glacier National Park

**EXHIBIT(bus63a07)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:11:03 Racene Friede, executive director, Glacier Country Tourism; Tourism Matters to Montana

02:19:03 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association

02:20:35 Mike Mergenthaler, director, Helena Convention and Visitors Bureau (HCVB)

02:22:10 John Laney, executive director, Miles City Chamber of Commerce; Montana Hospitality and Lodging Association (MHLA)

**Informational Testimony:**

02:24:21 Anna Marie Moe, Department of Commerce (COM)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:24:54 Sen. Facey

02:25:33 Mr. Mergenthaler, HCVB

02:26:35 Chair Buttrey

02:27:16 Sen. Brown

02:27:27 Chair Buttrey

02:27:30 Ms. Moe, COM

02:27:59 Sen. Facey

02:28:02 Ms. Moe redirect

02:28:35 Sen. Facey

02:30:09 Mr. Laney, MHLA

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:30:24 Sen. Brown

02:33:22 Chair Buttrey

02:34:16 Recess

02:52:26 Reconvened

02:52:28 Sen. Facey

02:53:03 Chair Buttrey

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 356**

02:53:18 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 356 DO PASS.**

02:54:04 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 356 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXHIBIT**(bus63a08)

02:55:18 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 356 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

02:55:29 Chair Buttrey  
02:56:42 Sen. Brown  
02:57:26 Chair Buttrey  
02:58:03 Sen. Facey  
02:59:08 Sen. Connell  
03:00:15 Chair Buttrey  
03:00:22 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
03:01:24 Sen. Vuckovich  
03:01:59 Sen. Brown  
03:03:16 Sen. Salomon  
03:04:06 Chair Buttrey

03:04:32 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Buttrey, Sen. Connell, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Salomon and Sen. Small voting aye.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 170**

03:05:25 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 170 DO PASS**.

**EXHIBIT**(bus63a09)

03:06:35 Motion: **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 170 BE AMENDED**.

**EXHIBIT**(bus63a10)

**Discussion:**

03:07:09 Chair Buttrey  
03:08:15 Sen. Facey

03:09:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

03:09:12 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 170 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

03:09:21 Chair Buttrey  
03:10:32 Sen. Connell  
03:11:35 Sen. Facey  
03:11:47 Chair Buttrey  
03:12:09 Sen. Facey  
03:12:18 Sen. Brown  
03:12:45 Sen. Salomon  
03:12:52 Chair Buttrey

03:13:05     **Vote:** Motion failed 5-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Buttrey, Sen. Connell, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Salomon and Sen. Vance voting aye.

03:13:48     **Motion:** Sen. Facey moved that **SB 170 BE TABLED**.

**Discussion:**

03:14:05     Sen. Brown

03:14:08     Chair Buttrey

03:14:21     **Vote:** Motion failed 5-5 by voice vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Facey, Sen. Small, Sen. F. Smith and Sen. Vuckovich voting aye.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:15 PM

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Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([bus63aad.pdf](#))